

## Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, February 18, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

February 18, 1843.

My Dear Genl: I have your two last letters the one inclosing your reply to Botts—the other referring to the affair with Mr. Kendall.

As to Botts he has been so completely convicted of making a false statement on Mr. K&apos;s palpable mistake, and his character being so low, as to be utterly unworthy of a notice from you, all your friends to whom I have spoken beg me not to gratify and honor him by publishing your reply under your signature. I have, therefore, determined to turn your paper into an editorial notice and contradiction (as soon as Mr. Kendall sends me the correction you have desired him to make). This especially because the new ground assuming the right to seize Judge Hall as a deserter, would complicate the clear ground taken in your defence at the time for your justification. I will bring the whole force of your remarks to him, however, on the subject, in as imposing a way as I can, only omitting to bring you personally into the case so as to make Botts proud of having drawn a notice from you—thus having proof that his remarks had reached your feelings. I have put your letter with others to me into Mr. Wright&apos;s hands, that he may avail himself of the strong views and new facts mentioned in them in a speech which he has it in contemplation to make. 1

1 Senator Wright made no speech on this subject during the remainder of the session.

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I casually met Mr. Kendall several days ago at Dr. Linn's room, when I was busy with your papers, and shook hands with him. It was the spontaneous impulse of feeling, of "Auld lang syne" on my part. I harbor no hostility towards him. To indulge my own feelings I would banish all unkindness to Mr. Kendall. To gratify your wishes upon the subject I would sacrifice any motive, however strong, which might urge me to pursue a controversy with him. Instead of this I will readily do him any service that I think calculated to promote his welfare. Still I must say to you, my dear General, that there are circumstances, (not contained in the correspondence between Mr. K and myself but unfolded in a letter to another individual) which was written, while I was serving him and before I had ever written or said an unkind word to or of him that has weakened my confidence in his probity and in the goodness of his feelings. What he wrote to me might have been provoked by false rumors as to what I had said of him. I care nothing for violent expressions under exasperated feelings. But a deliberate attempt to injure secretly a confiding and serving friend for selfish objects could never proceed from a good heart, or a true one. This matter, however, I will bury in my bosom, and forgiving a meditated but uneffected injury, I shall school myself to return good for evil and attribute his conduct to the pressure of hard necessity.

With the kindest love to yourself and the Household of the Hermitage I am in haste  
D<sup>r</sup> Genl.

Yo. friend